

I am disturbed by Sinclair's decision to air "Stolen Honor" two weeks before the election, not because Sinclair's stations shouldn't air controversial material, but because it seems to be a transparently partisan attempt to influence the upcoming election.

For one thing, Sinclair is forcing all stations to air the piece, regardless of local wishes. For another, by refusing to air a competing view at such a critical time. Sinclair is betraying its obligation to serve the public in a fair and balanced manner.

If it wants to air "Stolen Honor" commercial free at this critical time, Sinclair should also air "Fahrenheit 911" or another equivalent piece from the other side of the political spectrum.

Otherwise, I fear that Sinclair's actions smack of partisan electioneering, which I understand is illegal for a publicly held corporation.

Finally, this case provides a classic example of the dangers of media consolidation.